

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is herein amended. Support for the amendment is found in the specification, at least at page 1, line 33, through page 2, line 8. No new matter is added. Claims 3, 8, and 16 are amended to correct typographical errors.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4 and 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Petty, U.S. Patent No. 6,395,856. Claims 5-9 were indicated as allowable, but objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Applicant thanks the Office for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 and 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Petty. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as the Office has failed to state a prima facie case of anticipation.

Claim 1, from which all of the other active claims in the present application depend, is herein amended to clarify that claim 1 is directed to a composition that comprises a mixture of a vinyl-, acrylic, or methacrylic alkoxy siloxane and an alkyl- or phenylalkoxy siloxane. The compositions are mixtures, and have shown excellent suitability as a coupling agent for peroxidically crosslinking filled rubber compounds.

Petty, on the other hand, discloses silicone oligomers having a plurality of alkoxy silyl groups, and discloses such oligomers having vinyl, acrylic, methacrylic, alkyl, and phenyl groups. Unlike the present invention, Petty does not disclose a composition that is a mixture of vinyl-, acrylic, or methacrylic alkoxy siloxane and an alkyl- or phenylalkoxy siloxane, but

discloses oligomers having those functional groups. As an example, the Office asserts in the outstanding Action that compound (m) in column 11 of Petty anticipates the claim 1 invention “wherein the combination of oligomers is an acrylic alkoxysilane and an alkylalkoxysilane,” presumably embodiment “d” of claim 1. However, compound (m) is an oligomer that is formed as the condensate of vinyltrimethoxysilane and methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, not a mixture of “an acrylic or methacrylic alkoxysiloxane and alkylalkoxysiloxane”, the claimed composition. Failing to disclose the mixture of claim 1, Petty cannot anticipate the claim. Nor can Petty anticipate the claims depending from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of claims 1-4 and 10-18.

In light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

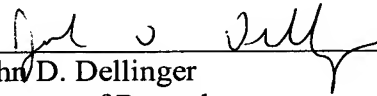
Respectfully submitted,

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